

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A user interface for an Internet-enabled television system,

2 the user interface comprising:

3 a display area for displaying broadcast television and Internet
4 related content;

5 a personalized category area which includes a plurality of
6 personalized content categories and which provides access to content in those
7 personalized content categories; and

8 a personal monitoring area for monitoring a plurality of types of
9 personal communications and for providing access to interfaces for those types
10 of personal communications.

1 2. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising a content
2 area for displaying content in a personalized content category when the category
3 is activated.

1 3. The user interface of claim 1, further comprising:

2 a first side of the display area along which the personalized
3 category area is aligned; and

4 a second side of the display area along which the personal
5 monitoring area is aligned,

6 wherein the first and second sides are perpendicular to each other
7 so as to form a L-shaped configuration.

1 4. The user interface of claim 3, wherein a first pair of arrows of
2 an input device are used to navigate among categories in the personalized

3 category area, and where a second pair of arrows on the input device are used to
4 navigate among features in the personal monitoring area.

1 5. The user interface of claim 4, wherein the input device
2 comprises a remote control device.

1 6. The user interface of claim 4, wherein switching from
2 navigation among categories in the personalized category area to navigation
3 among features in the personal monitoring area occurs automatically upon
4 switching from use of the first pair of arrows to use of the second pair of arrows,
5 and

6 wherein switching from navigation among features in the personal
7 monitoring area to navigation among categories in the personalized category
8 area occurs automatically upon switching from use of the second pair of arrows
9 to use of the first pair of arrows.

1 7. The user interface of claim 6, further comprising a non-
2 personalized user interface mode which comprises:

3 the display area;

4 a group of primary controls;

5 a plurality of groups of context-sensitive controls;

6 a third side of the display area along which the group of primary
7 controls are aligned;

8 a fourth side of the display area along which the group of context-
9 sensitive controls are aligned;

10 a third pair of arrows of an input device for controlling navigation
11 among the primary controls; and

12 a fourth pair of arrows on the input device for controlling navigation
13 among the context-sensitive controls,

14 wherein switching from navigation among the primary controls to
15 navigation among the context-sensitive controls occurs automatically upon
16 switching from use of the third pair of arrows to use of the fourth pair of arrows,

17 wherein switching from navigation among the context-sensitive
18 controls to navigation among the primary controls occurs automatically upon
19 switching from use of the fourth pair of arrows to use of the third pair of arrows,
20 and

21 wherein the third and fourth sides of the display are opposite to the
22 first and second sides of the display.

1 8. The user interface of claim 7, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of arrows comprise a same four arrows as the third and fourth pairs of
3 arrows.